

EXHIBIT 5.1

**Illinois-American Water Company***a subsidiary of American Water Works Company, Inc.*

April 17, 2002

Kimbrell Realty  
Attn: Jodi Kimbrell  
6608 N. University

Dear Ms. Kimbrell:

I have returned the water and fire billings, as they were not accompanied with a payment. Please note that the charged off account (\$53.51) we had sent to Creditors Discount and Audit for collection will soon be followed by another charged off account in the amount of \$125.02. For your convenience, I have included a screen print of that account. Your prompt attention to these items will prevent further processing by our collector.

You have also written on the fire bills that the Fire Department will not hook onto your private fire hydrant. You stated that you want the service stopped and a refund for the past billings. I have spoken with Chief Gregory S. Walters, Division Chief of Fire Prevention for the City of Peoria. According to what I learned in that conversation, the private hydrant on your property is considered to be a valid and valuable piece of fire fighting equipment. He will not authorize its removal. He further asked me to remind you that the hydrant must be in operational order at all times, and any necessary repairs and testing are your responsibility, and are to be done at your expense.

Accordingly, we will continue the billings. Payment in full on a timely basis is expected.

Very truly yours,  
ILLINOIS-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

A.E. Smith,  
Office Manager

cc: K.F. Hillen, T.M. DeSutter, G.S. Walters